



Ysgol y Gogarth

**Prospectus
2019-2020**





Ysgol y Gogarth

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Contents

3-5 Introduction

- Headteacher's welcome
- Mission Statement
- School Aims and Objectives
- General Description

6-8 The School

- Admissions and Transition
- School Hours
- Term Dates
- School Organisation

9-17 The Curriculum

- Foundation Phase
- Key Stages 2 and 3
- Key Stage 4
- Post 16
- Sensory Curriculum
- Careers Education and Guidance
- Religious Education
- Collective Worship
- Personal and Social Education
- Sex and Relationships Education
- Welsh Language

18-19 Extra Curricular Activities

- Student Council
- Sports and Clubs
- Homework

20-23 Additional Information

- School Uniform
- School Meals
- Attendance, Absence and Illness
- Positive Behaviour Support
- Assessment, Recording and Reporting
- Parents' Evenings
- Student Diary
- Charging Policy
- Complaints

24-25 Pupil Welfare

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- School Nurse
- Equal Opportunities
- School Security
- School Transport and Access
- Emergency Closure

Headteacher's Welcome

A very warm welcome is extended to you and your child from Ysgol Y Gogarth and we look forward to a happy and effective association over the coming years.

This prospectus is intended to introduce our school to you, providing you with information regarding our aims, administration and general organization. It should answer any immediate questions and offer details which should prove helpful throughout the academic year.



We believe it is important that as a parent/guardian you feel welcome in the school. Education is a partnership between home and school with a shared responsibility based on trust and mutual understanding. A good relationship between school and home builds children's confidence, aids their learning and helps them to fulfil their potential in all areas.

This is a happy, vibrant school where all children will be given the opportunity of learning in a caring, stimulating environment. We aim to give your child the opportunity to develop into a well-rounded individual.

We also welcome any expertise or assistance you may be able to offer us in delivering the best possible opportunities for our pupils.

I am always willing to talk to parents at any mutually convenient time.

Mr Jonathan Morgan
Headteacher



Mission Statement

“Where children come first”

School Aims & Objectives

Aims

- To provide an educational environment that is happy, pupil-centred, flexible and responsive, providing equal opportunities for all
- To create a safe, positive and secure environment in which pupils can refine and develop skills in all areas that will prepare them for life beyond Ysgol Y Gogarth
- To nurture positive expectation - enabling our pupils to achieve their full potential
- To fully integrate the therapy needs of our pupils into classroom practice through the provision of onsite support and training
- To ensure that Conwy Education Authority's bilingual policy is implemented appropriately to enable every pupil to experience a bilingual environment
- To enable pupils the opportunity to fully participate in their local community, schools and colleges and the wider world
- To develop inclusive practice within Ysgol Y Gogarth and the wider community
- To develop projects which promote citizenship, the international dimension and healthy living
- To ensure the buildings and facilities meet the additional learning needs of the pupils
- To ensure training opportunities for the whole staff according to the individual needs of the pupils, the curriculum and recent Education Acts and personal professional development requirements
- To maintain a multi-agency approach for the benefit of our pupils

Objectives

- To ensure equal rights of access to a broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum which promotes a full range of life, learning, communication and thinking skills enabling pupils to realise their potential and helping prepare them for independence
- To provide a one-stop community therapy, support and guidance setting



General Description

Ysgol y Gogarth is a day and residential special school catering for approximately 230 pupils aged between 3 and 19. The school overlooks the beautiful bay of Llandudno and is within four miles of the A55 North Wales Expressway.

The pupils attending the school are either fully statemented or in the process of being statemented and have a wide spectrum of additional learning needs.

The school offers a number of specialist facilities including a hydrotherapy pool, interactive sensory rooms, vocational hub, sports hall, and specially designed outdoor play areas.

Llys Gogarth

The Residential facility offers respite services and short-term placements for pupils who have been identified through social services needs assessment and the annual review process. These placements are on a rotational basis either over a half-term or a term in order to improve pupils' independence, social skills and social inclusion experiences or through an allocation of nights from social services disabilities team.

Day and residential staff work closely together to provide a full and rounded educational experience. The school endeavours to create an ethos of high professional educational standards within a happy, relaxed, homely but industrious atmosphere.

Llys Gogarth is registered as a Children's Home, under the Children's Homes Wales Regulations 2022. Mr Jonathan Morgan, Headteacher is the 'Responsible Individual' and Miss Elspeth Newing is the Registered Manager.

Governing Body

The school has an effective and valuable working partnership between its staff and the Governing Body. The Chair of Governors is Mr Dave Rowley. Any correspondence to the Chair may be made by using the school's address.





Admissions and Transition

The school will admit a child for a nursery place at the beginning of the school year if the child has reached his/her 3rd birthday on or before August 31st of that calendar year. A full time school place will be available for children from the beginning of the school year when the child has reached his/her 4th birthday on or before August 31st of that calendar year. (A child is required by law to attend school full time from the beginning of the term following his/her fifth birthday.)

All pupils who attend Ysgol Y Gogarth have additional learning needs. The majority have a Statement of Special Educational Needs before they start school but on occasion a child will be going through the process of being statemented and in this case we may provide a school place whilst a multi-professional assessment is being completed.

Children can be referred to Ysgol Y Gogarth at any stage of their education i.e. in their nursery year or up to Year 14 (if appropriate). Usually a suggestion is made to parents by the Local Authority (LA) to visit the school as the Statement approaches completion. As pupil statements are completed throughout the year we try to accept pupils as the need arises. Only if we are exceptionally full would we ask parents to wait until September for a placement.

Taster days are arranged where appropriate as transition for pupils who are transferring from other schools. If they have staff support in their current school, they will be expected to support the pupil on these taster days.

School Hours

Foundation Phase		Key Stages 2, 3, 4 & 5	
Registration	9.00am - 9.10am	Registration	9.00am - 9.10am
Period 1	9.10am - 10.00am	Period 1	9.10am - 10.00am
Period 2	10.00am - 10.45am	Period 2	10.00am - 10.45am
Break	10.45am - 11.00am	Break	10.45am - 11.00am
Period 3	11.00am - 12.00pm	Period 3	11.00am - 12.00pm
Lunch	12.00pm - 1.00pm	Lunch	12.00pm - 1.00pm
Registration	1.00pm - 1.10pm	Registration	1.00pm - 1.10pm
Period 4	1.10pm - 2.00pm	Period 4	1.10pm - 2.00pm
Period 5	2.00pm - 2.50pm	Period 5	2.00pm - 3.10pm
Collective Worship	2.50pm - 3.00pm	Collective Worship	3.10pm - 3.30pm

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2019	Spring Term 2020	Summer Term 2020
Staff Training - 2nd September	Staff Training - 6th January	Staff Training - 20th April
Staff Training - 3rd September	Term Starts - 7th January	Term Starts - 21st April
Term Starts - 4th September	Half Term Close - 14th February	May Bank Holiday - 8th May
Half Term Close - 25th October	Half Term Open - 24th February	Half Term Close - 22nd May
Half Term Open - 4th November	End of Term - 3rd April	Half Term Open - 1st June
End of Term - 20th December		End of Term - 17th July
		Staff Training - 20th July

School Organisation

Senior Leadership Team

Mr Jonathan Morgan - Headteacher
Mrs Lisa Kovacs - Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Glenda Powell - Assistant Headteacher
Mr Jon Goodwin - Assistant Headteacher
Mrs Carys Garner - Assistant Headteacher

Middle Leadership Team

Mrs Llinos Cawley - Literacy Lead
Mr Jon Steer - Digital Competency Framework Lead
Ms Sian Hughes - Numeracy Lead

Teachers

Miss Catrin Jones
Ms Kath Parkes
Miss Tania Williams
Ms Odine Matscheroth
Mrs Hannah Martin
Miss Keri Miller
Mrs Kerri Gwynne
Mrs Krysia Hargest
Mrs Marian Davies
Ms Nia Russo
Mrs Dawn Peterson
Miss Jenny Scott
Mrs Hayley Watkinson
Mr Lee Power
Mrs Janine Tenant Jones
Mrs Lou Williams
Ms June Riley
Ms Sarah Roberts
Mr David Hartley
Mr Martin Land

Admin Staff

Ms Kim Roberts - Pupil Administration
Mrs Lorraine Priestley - Staff Admin
Miss Heather Bates - Buildings and Facilities
Mrs Pat Davies - Receptionist
Mrs Bethan Jones - Finance
Mrs Bridget Jones - General Admin

Behaviour Analysts

Dr Maggie Hoeger - Consultant Behaviour Analyst
Miss Denise Foran - Behaviour Analyst
Miss Hannah Philpott - Behaviour Analyst

Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)

Mrs Wen Hayton - Speech and Language Therapist
Mrs Fiona Lloyd - Speech and Language Therapist
Mrs Claire Huws - SALT Assistant
Mrs Rachel Sian Owen - SALT Assistant

Family and Community Engagement Officer

Mrs Angharad Williams

Health

Mr Scott Smith - School Nurse
Ms Phillippa Burgess - Physiotherapist
Ms Ellen Elias Physiotherapist

Catering Staff

Ms Nia Bartley - Cook in Charge

Llys Gogarth

Miss Elsoeth Newina - Head of Care

The school has a large number of experienced and valuable support staff with varying roles. They range from Level 1 Teaching Assistants to Level 4/Higher Level Teaching Assistants and include Active Sports Officer, Assistant Behaviour Analysts, FACE Coordinator midday supervisors and site maintenance.



Curriculum

In accordance with the requirements of the 1993 and 1997 Education Acts we seek to address the individual learning needs of all Ysgol Y Gogarth pupils. We also accept the responsibility placed upon us by the Education Reform Act of 1988 to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. However in light of the changes highlighted in 'Successful Futures' we are currently reviewing and reorganising our curriculum and are actively involved in this national agenda as a Pioneer School. This is reflected in the development of new Areas of Learning and Experience (AOLE) and more thematic planning.

We recognize that flexibility in terms of balance within the curriculum is important to ensure relevance for our individual pupils. Therefore, not all our pupils will experience all aspects of the curriculum all of the time.

'Balance' reflects the needs of pupils at differing stages of their development. For example, pupils in our nursery will benefit from periods of exploratory play within the context of our Foundation Phase Curriculum while students in our 14-19 department will receive a modular curriculum emphasizing practical community-based activities including sex education, careers guidance, work experience and link courses.

Foundation Phase

The Foundation Phase Framework is primarily aimed at pupils between the ages of 3-7 years and is arranged into areas of learning as follows:-

- Personal & Social Development, Well-Being & Cultural Diversity
- Language, Literacy and Communication Skills
- Mathematical Development
- Welsh Language Development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development
- Religious Education (is taught to those over the age of 5 years)

The development of skills is given great prominence as is the principle that young children learn through play and by engaging in well-planned structured activities.





Key Stage 2 / 3

The Key Stage 2 and 3 curriculum builds on skills learnt in the Foundation Phase and is covers a wealth of National Curriculum subjects. These is duly adapted to take account of the additional learning needs of our pupils. Therefore aspects from an earlier key stage i.e. the Foundation Phase Framework are used as appropriate.

The National Curriculum subjects are as follows:-

- Mathematics
- English
- Welsh Second Language
- Physical Education
- Science
- Music
- History
- Art
- Design and Technology
- Geography
- ICT
- Religious Education
- Modern Foreign Language (KS3 only)

At key stage 3 other accredited modules may also be offered, for example, the Gateway Award.



Key Stage 4

The Key Stage 4 curriculum (ages 14-16) is based on the National Curriculum for Wales and duly adapted to take account of the additional learning needs of our pupils. Therefore aspects from earlier key stages are used as appropriate. In addition to the National Curriculum, the 'Careers and the world of work: a framework for 11 to 19 year olds in Wales' is adhered to. This is delivered through Work Related Visits and placements and through the '14-19 Vocational Pathways'.

At KS4 the following accredited qualifications are offered where appropriate:-

- ASDAN Independent Living Skills/Transition Challenge /Bronze/Silver Award
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze/Silver Award
- Unit Accreditation – AQA Vocational Certificates
- Entry Level Pathways

Post 16

The 16 Plus curriculum (ages 16-19) is designed to prepare students to leave school and to take a meaningful place in the community. Independent living skills form the core of the curriculum and the aim is to increase the students' self-confidence and social skills. At this stage the 'Careers and the world of work: a framework for 11 to 19 year olds in Wales' is adhered to. This is delivered through Work Related Visits and placements and through the '14-19 Vocational Pathways'.

The following accredited qualifications are offered at 16 Plus where appropriate:-

- ASDAN Literacy and Numeracy Milestones / Independent Living Skills / Transition Challenge / Bronze Award
- John Muir and Gateway Awards
- Red Cross First Aid Certificate
- Unit Accreditation – AQA Vocational Certificates
- Entry Level Pathways



Sensory Curriculum

The Sensory Curriculum at Ysgol Y Gogarth is the core from which all the above mentioned curriculum develop. This curriculum is implemented through all the key stages and focuses very much on individual development. The delivery of the sensory curriculum is through the following four areas (all of the National Curriculum subjects are included within these):-

- cognition
- communication
- physical
- social emotional and spiritual

“For learners with more complex needs, subject skills, knowledge and understanding may not be high priority but content can be selected from subject programmes of study/areas of learning which is relevant to learner needs and which will additionally provide interesting contexts for continuing work on individual priorities. For some learners, physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and other additional areas may be an integral part of the curriculum. Overall, the curriculum should aim to provide real understanding and relevant life skills not just ‘coverage’ of subject content.” DELLS Document

The Routes for Learning Assessment Tool is used and looks at the vital areas of communication and cognition which are paramount for pupils working at this level. Individual pupils are included effectively into peer groups and are active participants in the school life.





Careers Education and Guidance (CEG)

We work closely with Careers Wales to provide advice and guidance to our students and develop an awareness of the world of work.

We are continually building on links with local businesses to provide relevant opportunities which run alongside the provision we have onsite with the vocational department.

We also have access to a number of vocational courses at local colleges.

Religious Education

RE is taught in specific lessons and also through a more integrated approach. The aim is to develop spirituality in the pupils and to encourage them to find strength of character to face the varying circumstances of life. It is a subject that can be used to develop positive attitudes towards diversity and to celebrate things that are of worth and value.

Collective Worship

Meeting together to share and express what is worthwhile and valued in our school and in the world is an important part of the curriculum. Collective Worship sessions are undertaken daily alongside weekly assemblies to celebrate pupil achievements.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship, religious instruction or elements of it if it is their wish. In this case, parents should consult the school.

Personal and Social Education (PSE)

The aim of PSE is to provide further opportunities for children to increase their understanding about their bodies and how they work, personal hygiene, diet, how to keep fit, use / misuse of drugs, the effects of smoking and alcohol. Pupils are made aware of the risks of an unhealthy life style, of what it takes to keep healthy and their personal responsibility of achieving this.

There are opportunities to debate sensitive issues, listen, understand and empathise with peers.

Sex and Relationships Education

An appropriate sex and relationships education programme is provided according to the individual needs of our pupils. It specifically aims to:-

- provide knowledge around sexual health and human development
- develop social skills
- give proper consideration to the exploration of values and attitudes
- enable pupils to appreciate the value of a stable family life, marriage and the responsibility of parenthood

We aim to provide information which enables individuals to be safe and more able to understand their emotions and responsibilities.



Welsh Language

We aim to have a Welsh ethos throughout the school with bilingualism being the norm. We encourage pupils to speak the language using familiar words and patterns which are taught as part of the curriculum and build on this with staff using conversational Welsh as good role models.

A bilingual policy is followed in a variety of ways, for example:-

- greeting parents and visitors bilingually at reception
- telephone calls answered bilingually
- letters written bilingually
- the promotion of Welsh heritage and culture e.g. Eisteddfodau, Urdd, Jambori



Extra Curricular

School Council

There are pupil representatives on the Student Council from throughout the school. The Council meet every half-term and discuss issues raised by the pupils in the school.

All points of view are respected, discussed and minuted in the meetings. The Headteacher regularly meets with the School Council to feedback on their issues.

Sport

We aim to provide the maximum opportunity for all pupils to participate in as wide a range of activities as possible.

Provision is made for participation in sporting and outdoor activities competitive and non-competitive, locally and nationally. These activities often fall outside of the normal school day and of the curriculum. Pupils may take part in lunchtime, evening and weekend activities such as local fixtures, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, residential sporting events such as the special Welsh Games, residential outdoor pursuits trips and overseas, such as a ski trip.



Clubs

The Sporting Hub Officer offers pupils the opportunity to participate in a variety of exciting and rewarding activities during lunch times or after school. The programme engages young people in becoming healthy and physically active with the long term aim of them engaging in lifelong physical and sporting activity.

Club timetables are rotated termly basis and further details are available from Mrs Nicola Davies on 01492 860077.

Homework

Homework is available for those parents who wish their son/daughter to undertake additional study at home. Any homework set will support the work covered in class and can sometimes take the form of reading or symbol recognition in order to develop the relevant skills. Additional practice at Independence Skills outlined in a pupil's Individual Education Plan can also feature.



Additional Information

School Uniform

The Governing Body have agreed a school uniform as we believe this adds to the ethos of the school assisting with good behaviour and fostering a strong feeling of belonging amongst the children.

The uniform consists of the following and can be ordered from Boppers in Colwyn Bay:-

Nursery - Year 11	Years 12 - 14
Navy sweatshirt (school logo optional)	Black sweatshirt (school logo optional)
Polo shirt - white	Polo shirt - white
Trousers/skirt/pinafore - grey/black	Trousers/skirt/pinafore - grey/black
Summer dress - blue and white check	Summer dress - blue and white check
Fleece - navy (school logo optional)	Fleece - navy (school logo optional)

School Meals

School meals are paid for via the **ParentPay** Website/App which offers the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

However, if you prefer the school can issue you with a card for you to pay cash at any PayPoint station. Please notify the School Office if you wish to use the Pay Point facility. A plastic card will be issued to you to make cash payments for school meals at local Pay Point stores.



Provision is made for children wishing to bring their own packed lunch to eat in the dining room/hall. Please note that no glass bottles are allowed and we ask you not to include any fizzy drinks. Please consider the contents carefully as there is not a designated refrigerated area for packed lunches.

Free School Meals are provided for children of parents in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Job-Seekers Allowance or Child Tax Credit if not entitled to Working Tax Credit. Application forms are available from the school office. Re-application is necessary annually.

Attendance, Absence and Illness

Parents should contact school on 01492 860077 on the first morning of an absence and follow up with a note on the child's return to school.

Holidays should be arranged in official school breaks. Any absence due to holidays above 10 working days will be unauthorised, unless approved by the Governing Body in exceptional circumstances.

A report on attendance is included in the Headteacher's report to the Governors.

If a child becomes ill or has an accident in school we may need to contact an immediate relative urgently. For this reason you will be asked to supply us with a range of contacts including home and emergency telephone numbers. In addition all parents will be asked to fill in a medical form and other consent forms prior to their child starting school.

Children showing symptoms of sickness should be kept at home. It is also unwise to send your child back to school too soon after illness. If the child's illness is infectious, inform the school immediately. If children are being treated with medicines which may affect their performance in school, please make us aware of this.

School staff can administer medication during the day if requested in a letter by the parents. All medication must be clearly labelled and in original packaging from the chemist.





Positive Behaviour Support

We believe in the potential for all our pupils to achieve their best and we are proud of our whole school Positive Behaviour Support model. This is a tiered approach to how we support behaviour for all our pupils. It also provides careful guidance to staff in approaches to promoting behaviour positively, consistently and calmly.

1. Whole School Expectations

All pupils access our whole school approaches based around the school expectations, providing recognition and praise for their ongoing achievements. In some classes, pupils can earn tokens to use to vote towards a class reward.

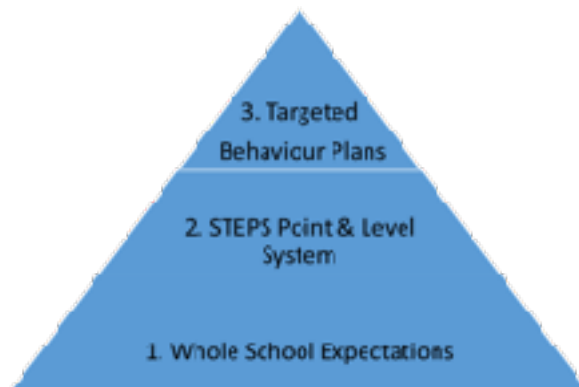
Pupils can also be nominated for 'Hot Chocolate Friday' with the Headteacher. This aims to recognise pupils who routinely go 'above and beyond' in their behaviour and attitudes to learning

2. STEPS Point and Level System

Some pupils require a little more support to develop positive learning behaviours and to engage with their learning. The STEPS program provides frequent opportunities to review achievements and challenges with pupils. Pupils have an individualised reward system linked to these achievements. They progress through different levels, gradually engaging with increasingly challenging activities with increasing expectations regarding their behaviour. This system has supported many pupils to engage fully within school. Staff are provided support and training in effectively delivering the STEPS program by our Positive Behaviour Support team, who also review progress on the programme.

3. Targeted Behaviour Plans

We are committed to supporting all pupils to achieve their best. A few pupils require individually tailored behaviour plans in order to best support them to behave positively and engage fully in school life. These plans are informed by behaviour analysis and are devised by the Positive Behaviour Support team. They provide training and support to staff in the implementation of these plans. They also monitor and review the impact of plans and the progress made by pupils.



Assessment, Recording and Reporting

A full, written report will be sent to parents at the end of each year. In addition pupils receive regular Individual Pupil Plans which give an indication of the progress a pupil is making against their targets. For all pupils with a Statement of Educational Needs, an Annual Review is also held to ensure that the statement remains relevant.

Charging Policy

Various trips are organised to enrich the school experience of pupils. While our aim is that no child will be excluded from such trips as a result of an inability to pay, it is important that the expenses of each trip are met if the activity is to take place. Contributions from parents may be sought for activities which may not be an essential part of the core curriculum. Further details can be sought from the school's policy.



Student Diary

The Student Diary is used as a key method of communication between parents and the school. This will be used to deal with matters which arise during a normal school week. The diary is not confidential and may be read/seen by all members of staff (teaching and non-teaching) in the class. Any matters which parents consider confidential may be communicated by letter marked confidential and addressed to relevant member of staff and enclosed in the diary.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings are held twice a year. These are important opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress with teachers, and we urge all parents to attend.

Complaints

We hope that you have no cause to complain about any aspect of the school. However, even in the best run establishments concerns may arise. The school has a fair policy for dealing with such issues and it is important that the correct procedures are adhered to. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to raise them with the relevant person.

The full policy is available to view on the school's website.

Pupil Welfare

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Ysgol y Gogarth is committed to Safeguarding and Child Protection. Policies relating to these can be seen on the school's website.

There are three designated officers for Child Protection - Mr Jonathan Morgan (Headteacher), Mrs Lisa Kovacs (Deputy Head) and Miss Elspeth Newing (Head of Care).

School Nurse

The Local Authority in part with the Health Service provide funding for full time nursing cover at the school. The nurse's role is varied but does include the following:-

- organising and delivering health services on site
- making referrals to other health professionals
- observing and gathering information facilitating early identification of problems
- teaching and training staff to ensure they are competent to provide the care necessary to meet the child's health needs
- delivering health education sessions
- ensuring provision of care plans and protocols for children with specific needs

Equal Opportunities

We are committed to a policy of equality and aim to ensure that no employee, job applicant, pupil or other member of the school community is treated less favourably on grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation, disability or religious belief.

Equality of opportunity cannot be realised without the involvement and commitment of all members of the school community. We firmly believe that all staff are dedicated to enforcing the contents of this policy.

School Security

Ysgol y Gogarth is an exceptionally busy school. We therefore have a number of policies in place to reduce any security risk.

The following are just a few of the policies:-

- Managing Traffic Safely on School Site
- Visitors
- School Security Procedures

Children will not be allowed out of school with anyone other than the taxi escort/parent who regularly collects them unless staff members are informed of the changes to normal routines.

School Transport and Access

The Local Authority provide free transport for all pupils at Ysgol Y Gogarth who require this service. It is important to remember that pupils using this service are required to conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times to ensure their own safety and that of others. The bus company is at liberty to refuse to transport any uncooperative pupils.

Pupils must stay with their arranged transport until the school doors open. At the end of the school day children are escorted to their transport by members of staff.

Access by car is via the school drive. Please drive considerately when approaching the school. Pedestrian access suitable for prams etc can be found alongside the school drive. The main entrance at Ysgol Y Gogarth is fully accessible for those with physical and mobility difficulties. Please respect the DISABLED and KEEP CLEAR markings in the car park at all times.



Emergency Closure and Inclement Weather

If poor weather conditions exist that could result in the closure of the school, please telephone to check before setting out. In exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to close the school at short notice.

We will make every effort to contact parents by phone and through local radio stations. Children will only be released to an identified adult and will remain with school staff until collected.

